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Indians Demand U.S. Protest to Pakistan

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NW DELHI, May 10—Prime Minister Shastri sought to pacify an angry parliament today as demands spread here for U.S. action to prevent the use of American military aid equipment by Pakistan against India again.

Opposition deputies jumped to their feet and called for a statement by the Premier when Defense Minister Y. B. Chavan dodged a full-scale discussion on the deployment of U.S. Patton tanks by Pakistan in the recent Kutch border fighting.

Chavan said tersely in response to a question that "we have conveyed our feelings to the United States Government."

"Is this all that you can say?" shouted Socialist Nath Pai. "Are the Americans our enemies now? If they do not do something, we can only regard this as hostile to us."

Chavan Badgered

Insistent questioners later badgered Chavan for another 15 minutes before the furore subsided.

The United States has given Pakistan \$1.2 billion in military aid since 1954 for the ostensible purpose of deterring Communist aggression. But on April 26, India produced evidence establishing to the satisfaction of U.S. military representatives here that Pakistan had deployed Patton tanks in Kutch combat areas. American correspondents traveling with the Pakistan army have reported seeing U.S. tanks 600 yards north of a major battle site at Biar-Bet.

Pakistan held back on permitting U.S. inspectors to go to front-line areas on its side of the line until May 7. Authoritative sources state that Maj. Gen. Robert Ruhlen, head of the U.S. military advisory group in Pakistan, found Patton tanks and other U.S. equipment in rear areas within Pakistan territory.

It is understood that in forward areas where combat has occurred he found tank tracks

but no direct current evidence of U.S. equipment in use.

India charges that Pakistan has been stalling on permitting U.S. inspection to permit the removal of U.S. equipment.

Military aid to India started after the 1962 Chinese aggression and is scheduled to pass the \$200 million mark this year. However, the U.S. aid program here does not include tanks and has been specifically tailored for mountain warfare against China.

Indian Use Not Proven

American military representatives who went to combat areas on May 1 found no evidence to support charges by Pakistan that India, too, is using U.S. equipment.

The Pakistani charges focus on 106 millimeter recoilless anti-tank guns and the ammunition for these bazooka-like weapons. India argues that it has not received these as part of U.S. military aid. The United States sold India some stocks of these in mid-1962 in a straight cash deal. But India has since been making its own model at the Cossipore factory near Calcutta.

Shastri has been politically embarrassed by the apparent unwillingness of the United States to reprimand Pakistan publicly. This has been linked with the postponement of his U.S. visit by political foes as an indication that he has no standing in Washington.

The Indian Prime Minister has tried to softpedal extensive discussion of the arms issue pending the outcome of ceasefire negotiations now entering a decisive stage.

It is understood that American officials here have stressed the need to avoid pushing Pakistan too hard on the arms issue while the West is promoting a ceasefire.

Shastri has also tried to defer a showdown with Washington on the arms issue until after his Soviet visit beginning Wednesday.